



11-28-3

PATENT  
030266

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit: 3679 :  
Examiner:  
  
In re application of : SPLIT P-HOOK  
Diggle et al.  
  
Serial No.: 10/646,006 :  
  
Filed: August 22, 2003 :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

November 26, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner:

Applicants, in accordance with the duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, hereby advise the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the references listed on the accompanying Form PTO/SB/08 *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* (substitute for Form 1449A/PTO). A copy of each of the cited non-patent references is herewith enclosed.

Express Mail Number ER524412781US  
Date of Deposit November 26, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

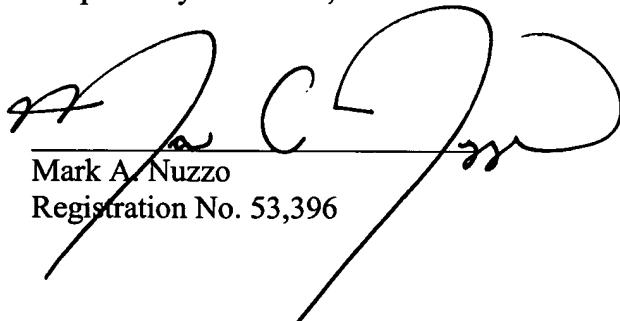
Patricia G. Mach

Applicants note that although the cited references may be relevant to the examination of the above-referenced application, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h), the filing of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* "shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b)."

Applicants further note that the filing of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* is not an admission that the references cited herein constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102-103 with respect to the captioned application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), Applicants submit that no fee is necessary for consideration of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant*. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additionally required fees deemed necessary for consideration of this *Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant* to Account No. 11-1110.

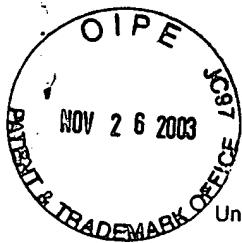
Respectfully submitted,



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NOV 26 2003

PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>				Application Number	10/646,006
				Filing Date	August 22, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Diggle
				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
<i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>					
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	030266

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

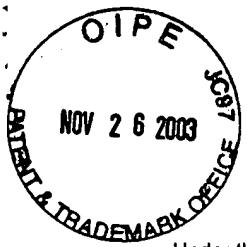
## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	10/646,006
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				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
(use as many sheets as necessary)					
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	030266

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published		
		T <sup>2</sup>		
		U.S. Patent Application No. 10/646,204 filed August 22, 2003. Attorney docket No. 030260.		
		U.S. Patent Application No. 10/646,068 filed August 22, 2003. Attorney docket No. 030303.		
		U.S. Patent Application No. 10/687,151 filed October 16, 2003. Attorney docket No. 030485.		
		U.S. Patent Application No. 10/643,177 filed August 18, 2003. Attorney docket No. BS030114.		

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